Implementation of C.A.T. Decision

1945. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision of the Central Administrative Tribunal in a transferred application No. 27/1987 (original writ petition No. 1556 of 1983 in the High Court of Bombay) on November 11, 1987 to grant option to the petitioners and also to other Railway retired employees with Provident fund in this order in Para 11 (VI) is being implemented by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, the number of cases decided so far and the number of cases yet to be decided; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). The judgement of the C.A.T in T.A. No. 27/1987 has already been implemented in the case of the two retired employees who had filed the application. Instructions are being issue to the railway Units indicating the modalities for dealing with cases of other similarly placed Railway P.F. retirees as per the directions of the Hon'ble Tribunal.

Turmoil in Gandhigram Rural Institute of Tamil Nadu

1946. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gandhigram Rural Institute in Tamil Nadu is in turmoil;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). According to the information furnished by the Institute, there have been some incidents of demonstrations and strikes in the past few months, mainly as a reaction to certain disciplinary measures taken by the University authorities against some staff members. A small group of members of teaching and non-teaching staff of the Institute resorted to strikes and gherao in September and October, 1991, following orders of the Vice-Chancellor to recover some unauthorised loans, and in support of their demands for confirmation of temporary staff. On one occasion the Vice-Chancellor had to call police to restore peace and tranquility.

(c) The Gandhigram Rural Institute is a deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 and is autonomous. The Vice-Chancellor has appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of a retired District Judge to investigate into the disturbances on the campus of the Institute.

[*Translation*]

Admission of Students in USSR

1947. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students went to USSR for medical and engineering studies during 1991;

(b) whether certain private agencies are working under the supervision of the Government for their admission in USSR;

(c) if so, whether the Government are aware of the exorbitant fees being charged by these agencies for sending the students abroad; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No student has gone to USSR for Medical and Engineering studies during 1991 under the Cultural Exchange Programmes administered by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

(b) No, Sir. They are not working under the supervision of the Government.

(c) and (d). The Government of India have not approved the activities of any private agencies for sending the students to the USSR. If any specific case of violation of Indian laws by these agencies comes to the notice of law enforcing agencies, suitable action will be taken against them.

[*English*]

Price of School Books

1948. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the steep increase in the prices of school books and note books in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring down these prices?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVLEOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The increase in the prices of school textbooks is mainly due to increase in the cost of paper which is the main constituent of the cost of production and the increase in the printing rates.

(c) The following steps are being taken by the NCERT to contain the prices of textbooks:

i) To continue to price the NCERT textbooks on a no-profit no loss basis.

ii) Not to price textbooks for classes I-VIII beyond Rs. 15/- and to absorb the losses, if any.

iii) To fix price of Urdu version NCERT textbooks at par with the corresponding English or Hindi version, whichever is lower and to absorb the losses, if any.

Merging of areas of SER with SCR

1949. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge some of the areas of South-Eastern Railway with South-Central Railway (Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts in Andhra Pradesh as a result of creation of new zones; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.